all the news they don't tell you

TAMESIDE EYE

NO. 10 NOV. 79

15p.

GUY FAWKES WAS RIGHT

RTZ: MORE LEAKS

900 ICL JOBS GO

more cuts

Anderton's LAW

Rent Arrears Up in Smoke

TAMESIDE EYE IS

- INDEPENDENT.
- HARD-HITTING.
- NON-PROFIT-MAKING.

EYE

HAD A BRUSH WITH A BUREAUCRAT? YOUR BOSS BEEN SILLY OR UNPLEASANT ? WHAT ABOUT THAT CONFIDENTIAL MEMO THAT DISTURBS YOU? DON'T SIT ON IT...CONTACT EYE AND LET EVERYONE KNOW.

☆new☆ address

Tameside Eye
PO Box 30,
Hyde, Ches. SK14 3JL.

Telephone: 455 3724

meetings

WEDS. 8.30pm GREYHOUND, BURLINGTON ST. ASHTON.

ad-rates

£7 for a sixth of a page.

Events,meetings, etc. listed free.

subscriptions

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NEWS, INFORMATION, GOSSIP?

The price of petrol is going down, and GMT admit that fuel is easier to get. However, they are not going to re-instate the services they cut because of the fuel crisis.
The official figures are that 8% of their total services have been cut; 25% of services after 6 pm and on Sundays. But, everyone who travels on buses knows that GMT are not providing even this level of operation - because of staff shortages buses simply are not leaving the depots. Poor pay and conditions on the buses has produced a staff shortage, although a new pay deal is being balloted as we go to press. In Tameside, some Councillors have been condemning the price increases proposed for later this year.
Meanwhile, GMT invest our money in Horizon holidays, of which they own 14%. No doubt this helps them to get away from it all, when the demand for better and cheaper services - like those run over the border in Sheffield- get too much to bear.

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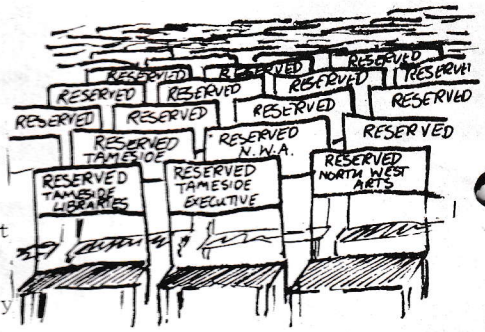
A debate on immigration and racialism was held recently at Droylsden Labour Party meeting. Peter Jepson from Tameside Campaign against Racism and Fascism led off by accusing the present Tory Government of being 'racist' and warned that they were pushing through more legislation restricting immigration. He reminded everyone present that at Labour Party Conference there had been an overwhelming vote in favour of repealing the 1971 Immigration Act.
Then Cllr. George James spoke up. He seemed to start off well with 'It's not the blacks who are to blame for the state this country is in.' With bated breath, delegates prepared for a passionate Socialist statement. 'No', continued George, 'it's the yellows, the Chinese, who are taking over the country. I was returning on the train from Brighton the other day and thought I was on the slow boat to China. I support immigration controls - these are the people we want to stop coming into the country.'
George James comes up for re-election next May (1980) It will be interesting being a fly on the wall during the selection meeting: with friends like George, Droylsden Labour Party needs no enemies.



Recently, a London-based all women theatre group called 'Bloomers' put on an excellent show at the West End Community Centre, Ashton. Tameside Libraries and Arts coughed up £100 in support of their performances in the area. But was it necessary for so many officials to be present to witness the handing over of the cheque? The show was attended by no less than the Chief Officer of Libraries and Arts Tom Featherstone, plus his sidekick Peter Vere and David Evans from Chief Executive office; in addition no less than three full time officers of North West Arts Assoc. were there, including their Deputy Director.
No doubt in future there will have to be five librarians present as you take out your library book and thirteen 'arts' wallahs when you buy your Lowry print.....

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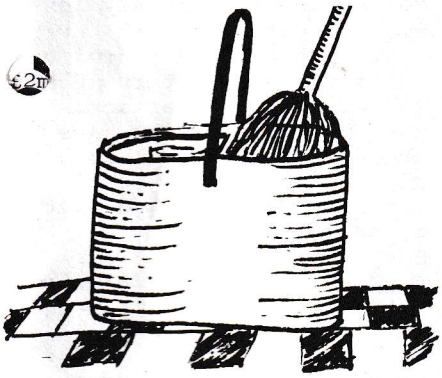
All good Salvationists will remember the shocking revelations of after hours drinking at Broadbottom Conservative club around election time.
Well, Eye's ears report that four of the revellers have recently been fined about £60 each. Strange to note that the court case went un-reported in our local newspapers. Perhaps local editors prefer to report Labour rather than Tory law breakers.

HOT LINE

tel 455 3724

After many complaints and after much wrangling between the cynical-muck-rakers on our editorial committee and the supporters of grass roots community activism the eye editorial group decided, last summer, to adopt a more positive approach to news.
The last issue was the result.
Most of us were quite pleased with it at the time.
Then we started getting complaints from other alternative papers in Manchester who thought that particular issue was 'ranting' in tone.
Now the cynics in the group are back in the ring demanding more muck. What do you think ?



The cuts are beginning to bite and despite promises and protestations to the contrary, a Labour Council is implementing them.
Home helps are becoming a rare breed: extinction is due to the decision to cut their already miserable hours from three to two.
As a result, twelve home helps packed in their jobs, based at Hyde Social Services, in one week alone.
There is also a threat to Adult Education evening classes: if the proposals of Roy Oldham's go through, £12,000 will be lopped off this year's budget and by January the number of classes will have been axed down to 130.

When is grey not grey enough and blue too blue? Mr. Boultwood, the Head at HattersleyComprehensive claims to have the answer to these shady questions. This term he has been making a determined stand against kid's freedom to wear the clothes of their choice: uniform has been re-introduced, and many kids have been sent home for not wearing the right things. The beginning of term was complete chaos at the school - uniforms ordered by conscientious parents did not arrive in the shops in time, but their kids were still sent home.
By now, only one or two isolated resistors remain, and the whole weight of authority is coming down on them: the Headmaster, Geoff Mayall (Director of Education), local Councillors. Hyde shop keepers seem the only ones likely to gain from this costly exercise.

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With the full support of Evans and Spiers (Chief Executive), Chief Wrecker - Ted Neighbour - is fighting a strong rearguard action to keep control of Hattersley Community Centre in Wreckreation hands. Discussions and reports have been centring on whether Youth and Community would be able to make the centre better used.
Opponents of Wreckreation control argue they are the wrong people for the job and their incompetence over the past years would indicate this to be true. Traditionally, Wreckreation does things for people rather than with them.
Undoubtedly, one of the reasons Chief Executive are reluctant to see this change is that they have been pretending to themselves that two Departments with opposite ways of working should be able to work together in harmony and run the Centre.
If there is a change over to one Dept. (Youth & Community) having control, Chief Executive's 'Corporate management' theories will have had a large hole blown through them.
Councillors Paul Smith and Roy Oldham both support the changeover: will they be powerful enough to over-rule the Council's most powerful employees ?

If you got the last issue of EYE you may recall the feature on the Tameside Battered Wives project, and if you happened to get that fearless scoop-sheet the Manchester Evening News a few days after you may have had a sudden feeling of deja vue.
Their page five lead story was entitled 'drink crazed husbands batter wives' - or some such sensational nonsense.
This story, which claimed to be written by one Carol Clark was all about the Tameside Battered Wives Project!
Coincidence? Not exactly.
You see, apart from the first half column or so the story was more or less word-for word-rip-off of ours.
We immediately sent the Evening News a bill and an offer of our journalistic services on a more regular contract basis should their own staff reporters continue to prove inadequate.
The 'Executive Editor' one James Ross, wrote back with some waffle about having got the story from a bulletin issued by the Wives Project.
He also forgot to pay the bill. Perhaps he did not understand our letter, perhaps he can't read.
Our massive administrative staff will be following up diligently.
Watch this space.

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And now for some real concern Recently, the self-appointed 'Concern for Education' group were conducting their so-called referendum. They claim to be obtaining their facts in a neutral way and that they are getting a response which shows people are against comprehensive education. But they must be tiring after months of slogging around Tameside streets, because their 'neutral' mask slipped when they were in Hattersley. They knocked on the door of a firm supporter of Labour's comprehensive education plans. When they had asked their usual loaded questions, they were challenged about their neutrality and asked whether it was a referendum they were conducting or a mass canvassing exercise for Tory Don Thorpe ? A furious argument ensued. It ended when the 'Concerned' person said 'Well, you're all on Social Security up here anyway.' and had the door slammed in her face.

One of Cllr, Colin Granthams side lines is buying and selling sub-post offices. His latest side-line is being a Director of the Greater Manchester Economic Development Corporation. Will Colin's plans for a sub- post office in every street now be realised? The Tory controlled Gtr. Manchester Council have given the Corporation £5 million for 'no unions here' Colin and sundry other Tory cronies to play around with. One of their first decisions was to set up office in the 'prestigious' Bernard Hse, Piccadilly Gardens and with no expense to the rate-payers spared. They are already considering paying themselves about £2,000 a year. It's jobs for the boys

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went on strike after another confrontation with Town Hall management. But this time, there was a new development: for at the back door of the rents office stood the Area Manager, Alan Sellars waving a placard and supported by two fellow NALGO members.
Up to this point members of the majority union at the office, NUPE, had understood NALGO meant 'Not a lot going on'.
The strike happened after John Taylor, a new NALGO secretary (who also happened to be a principal officer at the Town Hall) was suspended. Taylor had passed a Manchester Housing Committee agenda to his opposite number in NUPE without his superiors permission.
After a short sharp strike he was re-instated, but given a 'final warning'.
How far will this new found unity between the two unions go? Unfortunately, the Hattersley rents office was the only one to close completely. Nonetheless, NUPE and NALGO have not previously been on the best terms in Manchester Housing. As one housing officer put it 'Housing dept. staff will at least be in a stronger position to state their case'.

On with the dirty macs folks, cover your lap with page three of the Sun and if you dare - read on.
Because this is where we bring you, exclusively in Tameside, the lewd disgusting details of the latest film the council censors won't let you see in case it corrupts you.
We refer of course to that masterpiece of cinematographic art 'The Bitch' starring Joan Collins and a chorusline of specially trained tapdancing suspender belts which was banned last month by our very own Environmental Health Committee.
Well, here it is, the synopsis that has so far only

Story outline: Now divorced from her rich husband Fontaine Khalea is in New York and making the most of her last night with young Paul before returning home. On the flight to London she is chatted up by playboy Nico Cantafcra who slips a ring in her pocket to get it through customs. However, he is unable to retrieve it because Fontaine hurries to her disco accompanied by her friend Polly who says business is bad.
Depressed by finding the story true, Fontaine seduces her new chauffeur Ricky, who mistakenly thinks he is on to a good lasting thing.
Meanwhile Nico is getting worried. His contact Hal Leonard warns him that the loss of the ring will mean trouble with the mob to whom Nico owes money.
Fontaine is warned by her business manager and would-be lover to beless extravagant. Eventually, Fontaine and Nico meet again at a gay disco and later get together in bed.
Next morning she discovers the truth about the ring and throws him out.
He is taken away for a confrontation with mob boss Feather who has a plan for fixing a race. Nico's prowess as a lover enables him to persuade Fontaine to arrange for his invitation to her friend Vanessas house party where he blackmails Vanessa's jockey love But all does not work out as he planned and Fontaine sorts things out very much to her own satisfaction.
Audience rating: The mass audience that revels in glossily presented soft-porn, disco music and mildly naughty dialogue.
Business Prediction: very good indeed in popular cinemas.

Shocking heh? No wonder one lady councillor felt called upon to ban it on the grounds that its half hour long sex acts might lead to newly weds being disappointed at their own feeble efforts.
Perhaps the solution to this problem would not be to ban the film but to set up a special environmental health sub-committee where the lady in question could give unskilled newly-weds all the necessary training

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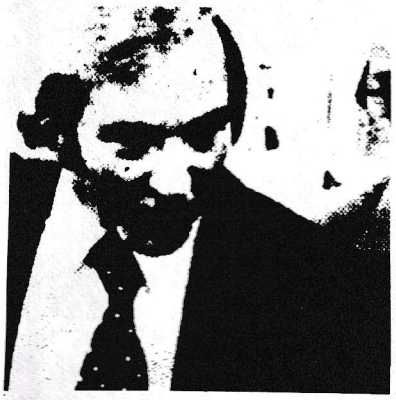


ICL's DIRECTOR OF NORTH-WEST MANUFACTURING, JAY MOORE, SAYS:

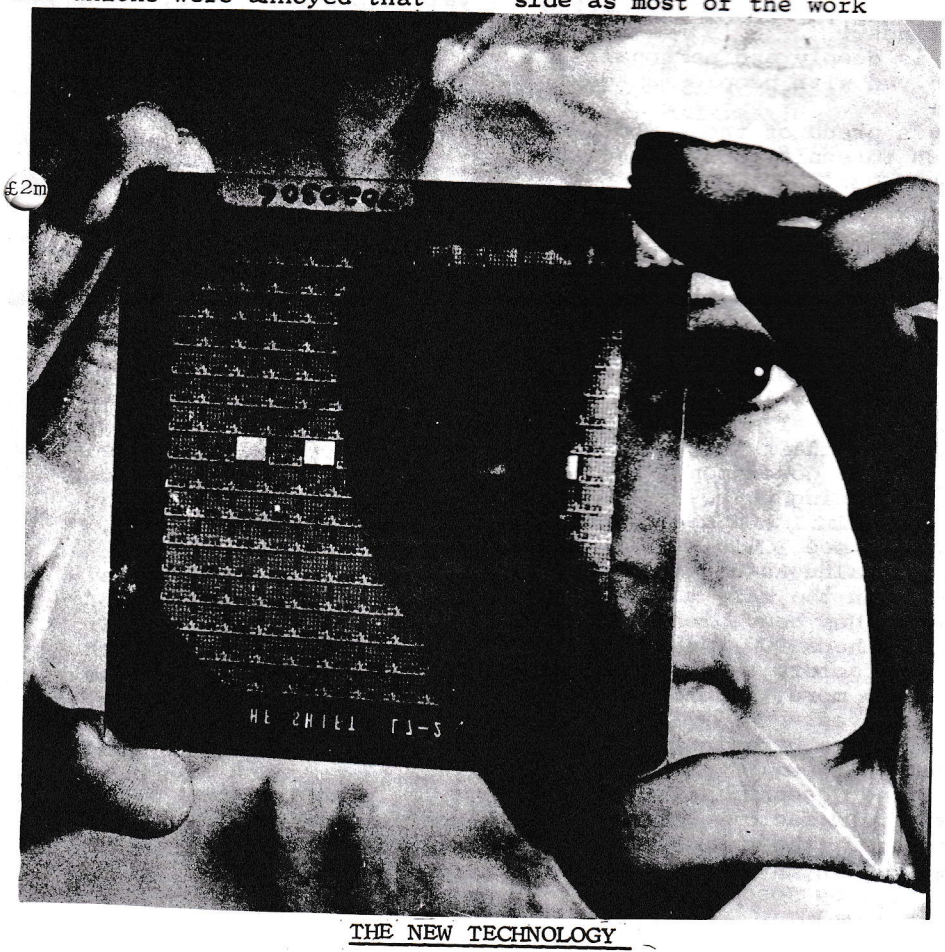
900 DOWN THE ROAD

Open & Shut

ICL is the only British manufacturer of mainframe computers. But it is also a multinational company.
In August, ICL opened a brand new factory on the site of the old Snipe pit. This has been leased for 5 years at a rent of 80 times higher per sq. ft. than Park Rd. Mill in Dukinfield. But, security is good with infra-red cameras, backed up by a tannoy outside, surveying Manchester Rd. and revellers coming out of the Birch Hotel.
On Oct.2nd ICL announced the closure of Park Rd.Mill with the loss of 900 jobs. Management had suddenly discovered that the mill was 90 years old and unsuitable.
The unions were annoyed that the company have broken promises to bring new work and equipment to Dukinfield.
The union's immediate response was to refuse to accept the closure. At a factory meeting on Oct.15th at which full time union officials and Tom Pendry spoke, the workforce voted to resist the closure by banning overtime and seeking support for their case from other ICL factories.
The only way ICL softened the blow was in promising 100 jobs at other sites in the hope that everyone in Dukinfield would think that they would be one of the lucky ones.

Jobs vanish

The loss of jobs in Dukinfield is bad news for Tameside as most of the work force is local and rates of pay and conditions good. The semi-skilled rate is £76 per week.
A spokesman for the Manchester Chamber of Commerce suggested that 'skilled and conscientious workers' would be able to find other jobs. This statement is questionable after the engineering employers federation statement that 500 redundancies at Mather and Platt would be followed by five more companies in the Manchester area announcing redundancies. Semi-skilled workers, especially those who are women, will find it difficult to find jobs locally that are as well paid.
Outside engineering the prospects are bleak, with Ray Mill, owned by Courtaulds about to close and rumours of the closure of other mills in Park Rd., although Kay-Metzler have denied the rumour.



£2m

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

Fight back

Don Black, secretary of the joint union committee told EYE 'We are fighting this attack on our jobs. If they get away with this ICL and other employers will try it on elsewhere. The way things are going the only choice left for our kids round here will be Dukinfield cemetery or a quick dip in the soap bubbles of the River Tame.'

What timing!

B.M. Murphy is 'Head of Parliamentary affairs' for ICL. His poor timing and lack of tact must be embarrassing to the rest of the ICL board.
It started innocently enough. On 3rd July this year he sent out a letter referring in glowing terms to 'the future challenges and opportunities that face our company'. He asked Tom Pendry M.P., to come to a meeting on this topic on 30th Oct.
But then he sent out another letter, dated 10th Oct..

P6 cont.

6 from page 5

ICL

which announced the closure of the Dukinfield plant with the loss of 900 jobs. Pendry considered this was cynical enough, but only the next day he got another letter from Murphy.
It was an invitation to the International Business Show at Birmingham, to view ICL's latest products. It said: 'Within Computer City you will get a unique opportunity to see a demonstration of how computers will affect the way of life of you and your constituents over the next decade.'
To make matters worse, Murphy had also enclosed a 'questions and answers' sheet in the letter announcing the closure.
This revealed ICL's thinking on a wide range of topics and was meant to be a briefing document for management when they faced the angry work force.
It openly admitted that discussions have been taking place with the Sth.African Govt. over establishing a computer factory there.
It explained the lease on the Park Rd. site runs to 1985 (but not why they want to leave it in 1980).
Statistics on this sheet showed the Dukinfield workers to be 12% of the whole of ICL's manufacturing workforce and pointed out that if the run-down on the workforce continued at this pace, ICL would have 6,500 in manuf acturing by 1981 and 3,900 by 1985.
Having announced the closure already, it said: 'Consultations will carry on from this moment.'
ICL's cynical attitude is unlikely to make the 900 redundancies more palatable to the Park Rd. workforce.

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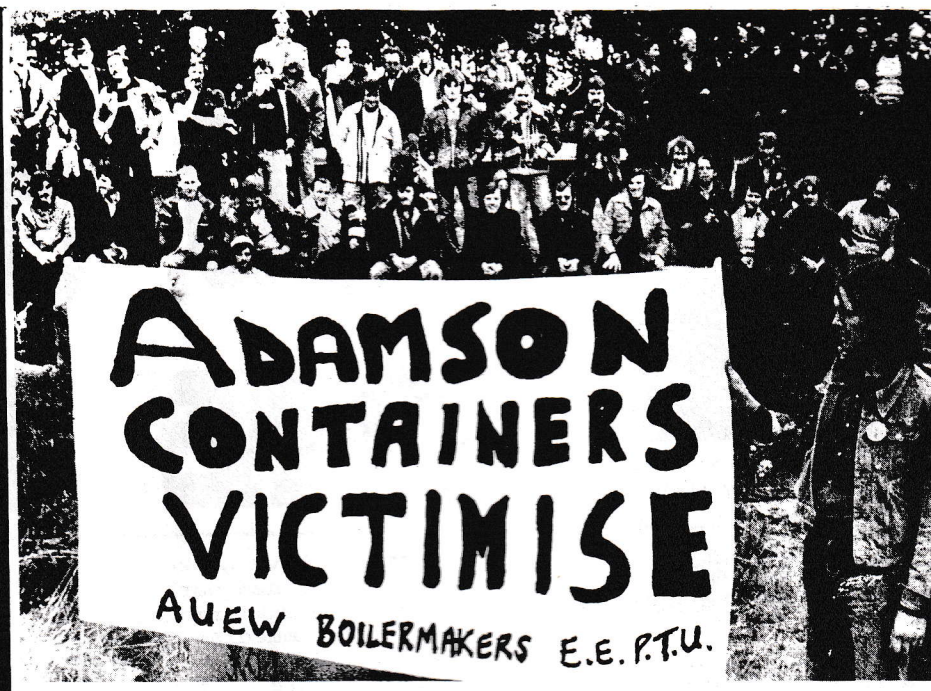
WHAT IS SIR KEITH UP TO?

New Industry Minister, Sir Keith Josephs is holding up ICL's regional development grant for their West Gorton site. The government is also planning to sell its 3% stake in ICL and no doubt wants to see ICL's stock market value as high as possible when the sale takes place. How convenient then if ICL sheds 900 workers and an old factory thus making the firm more 'viable' in the Tories eyes.
Possibly, a bargain has been struck between ICL management and Josephs; with the Dukinfield factory closure announced, the grant for West Gorton may now be given the O.K. by Josephs.



ADAMSONS CONTAINERS: STILL HOLDING OUT AFTER EIGHT WEEKS

OFFICIAL

ACROW BOSS

'Fiercely loyal to his employees

In Sept. this year, W.A. de Vigier, Chairman of Acrow, gave an interview which was printed in a magazine called 'International Management' Some of the things he said came as no surprise:
*it is profits, rather than size or sales, that interest him.
*'I don't believe in committee meetings.'
*he is deeply and personally involved with people management.
*he is proud of those who have risen to senior posts from the shop floor.
*he believes in competition.

However, other points will not make such sense to those fighting redundancy at Adamsons Containers. The article goes on to say.
*De Vigier is a master at talking with supervisors and shop floor workers... in an unpatronising way, because he is genuinely interested in people.
* De Vigier is fiercely loyal to his employees.
Finally, total confidence in Acrow's management is restored when we are told of the company's strategic plan for the next 5 years.
* De Vigier intends playing the future by ear. 'Yes, I do have a plan. I would like to see the company double in size and profitability.'

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

How will the new microelectronics technology affect jobs in Tameside? To find out Tameside Planning Department have commissioned research, which is being done by Dr. Kenneth Green at the Liberal Studies and Science Dept. of Manchester University. Their report is due out this month According to Dr. Green, some of the more confidential information they obtained from Tameside industrialists will not be included.

By coincidence, Labour Cllr. Glynn Ford shares the same office at the University as Dr. Green.

Who owns the news?

HOW EFFECTIVE CAN A LOCAL PRESS BE WHEN IT IS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY LEADING MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ESTABLISHMENT?
EYE LOOKS AT THE MEN AND THE MONEY BEHIND THE REPORTER GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS

family firm

The Reporter group is owned by J. Andrew and Co.Ltd. a family firm of printers and publishers established for over a century in what is now Tameside.
The Directors are Gerald Arthur McAlinden, Gerald Andrew amd John Stansfield. We have been taking a closer look at the affairs of Mr. Stansfield.

director

John Philip Stansfield of 43 Mottram Old Rd. Stalybridge is a qualified chartered Accountant. He has been Financial Director and Secretary of J. Andrew and Co.Ltd. since 1973.
He is also a Director of the subsidiary company - J. Andrew Co. (Properties)Ltd. He owns shares in Geofrey Gibson Ltd. Tameside Properties Ltd. and The Ashton Stamford Building Society. As Secretary of the Ashton Stamford Building Society which claims assets of over £2m, Mr. Stansfield must be very pleased with the publicity his newspapers give to that organisation. A quick glance through the EYE files produced no fewer than eight lengthy items on the society that had appeared in the Reporter's business pages within the space of a few months. The articles carried headlines like 'Society has another excellent year' and 'reports show another year of growth.'

freemasons

A very close associate of Mr. Stansfield in the Ashton Stamford was the late Mr. Rupert Wood, who died last month. Mr. Wood was the President of the building society, a former President of the Ashton golf club, a solicitor, and a member of the local Minerva Freemasons Lodge, where he was the Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden, no less.

area health

There USED to be a J.P. Stansfield on the Area Health Authority. If this is the same man then he will undoubtedly have made the acquaintance of the Chairperson of that quango, the good lady Christine Kenyon wife of Sir George, businessman, philanthropist and arguably Tamesides most powerful man.

A trace on the other two directors and the 20 or so shareholders of J. Andrew and Co. Ltd. would undoubtedly reveal similar connections.

pillars

The men who control the Reporter are respectable pillars of the local establishment. Their newspaper is part of that establishment. It reports but rarely investigates, and it never bites the many local hands - political, financial, social, that feed it information Woodward and Bernstein would be at a loose end at the Reporter, which is perhaps one of the reasons why circulation and profits have been falling steadily in recent years.

dividends

In 1974 J. Andrew and Co. made a net profit of £73,249 in 1976 profits had dropped to £69,139. By the following year they had dropped further still to just over £50,000. This did not stop Mr. Stansfield and his fellow directors paying themselves what, in the circumstances, was a hansome series of dividends. Over £30,000 went out to shareholders that year.

challenge

This year Reporter sales have been hit by competition from the Advertiser free sheet, and profits by the wage increases made after last winters journalists strike. It will be interesting to see what, if any changes are forthcoming from Tameside's oldest rag.

OUR NORMAN
THE GREAT THING ABOUT BRITAIN -
IS THE FREE PRESS
HOSPITAL WORKERS MURDER PATIENTS
IT'S NOT LIKE RUSSIA
GPS WHO KILL OLD PEOPLE
YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU LIKE HERE...
GREEDY WORKERS RUIN BRITAIN
AS LONG AS -
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- YOU'VE GOT TWO MILLION POUNDS TO BUY A PRINTING PRESS!

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Last month William Whitelaw (Home Secretary) announced plans to clamp down on crime and picketing. Both these ideas had been previously championed by James Anderton, the Chief Constable of the Gtr. M/c police force.

DETENTION CENTRES ARE TO BE TURNED INTO HIGHLY DISCIPLINED PUNISHMENT CAMPS WHERE YOUNG OFFENDERS ARE TO BE GIVEN A 'SHORT SHARP SHOCK'.
SECONDARY PICKETING IS TO BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED.
IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PARTY OF LAW AND ORDER WILL BE CONSIDERING MORE OF JAMES ANDERTON'S IDEAS IN THE TROUBLED YEARS TO COME. SO NOW IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO LOOK AT THOSE IDEAS, THE METHODS AND CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL POLICEMAN.

James Anderton is, at 46, Britains youngest Chief Constable. He was born in Wigan, the son of a collier worker and a clothing factory machinist. He is a devout methodist.
He became a policeman in 1953 rose rapidly, and became Chief Constable in 1975. He now controls the second largest force in the country. He has 6,362 men and women under his command, spread across 14 geographical divisions from Wigan in the west to Tameside in the east. A 'patch' that covers an area roughly the size of Los Angeles. And that comparison is not an idle one because Anderton has, in his four years of power, introduced many of the methods and equipment used by his American police colleagues.
He brought in electronic badge reader access systems and door entry controls at police H.Q. He wants to install computerised command and control systems and to expand computerised record keeping. He has pioneered the use of helicopters and cameras for crowd control.

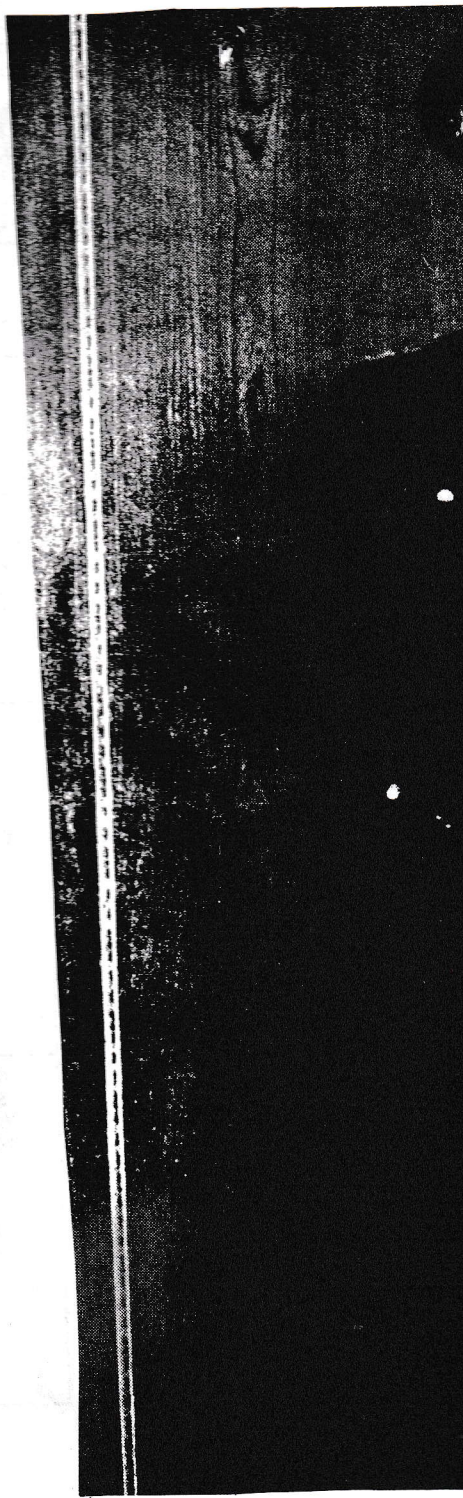
He is alleged to have one of the most advanced arsenals of weapons available to any police force.
But IN FACT Manchester is not Los Angeles. The American city has for example 50 times more murders and rapes than Manchester, and crimes against property are also proportionally greater.
So, if Anderton's American style hardwear were simply for combating Manchester's relatively minor crime wave the good ratepayers of the county could legitimately accuse their top cop of wasting their hard earned

But, all that hardwear isn't just for catching burgulars and muggers.
For Anderton is, in his own words, 'the beginning of a new generation of policeman' whose targets range far beyond the common or garden criminal.

One of those targets is what Anderton likes to call 'subversion'.
When he was interviewed last year on the BBC TV programme Tonight, Anderton claimed that there is a lot of subversion about. He said that, if the nation did not have enough prisons to confine people who had committed.... serious political subversion it would have to devise means of keeping them out of circulation.'

Anderton has never clearly defined what, in his mind, subversion is. But it is possible to get a rough idea if we review his actions over the past few years.
At the end of 1975 Anderton set up his Tactical Aid Grp. of highly trained mobile police, skilled in weaponry and commando tactics. They are the equivalent of London Special Patrol Group which was used extensively during the Grunwick dispute and, more recently, which has been accused of the murder of Blair Peach an anti nazi league member who was killed in a demonstration earlier this year.

In Dec. 1977 Anderton's force sealed off an area of inner city flats in Collyhurst with road blocks for most of the night. No unusual crime or disturbance had occured but there were allegations that citizens were stopped and searched.



RTON'S W

It was in fact an 'exercise' The alleged presence of Home Office and military observers has never been denied.
On Feb.1st this year, Anderton called for 'sweeping changes' to the law of picketing. Only people directly involved in the dispute should be allowed to picket and they should be limited to a maximum number, officially authorised and clearly identified.
Since then, these ideas have become official Conservative party policy.

In July this year, a police training pamphlet was leaked to the press, it was written by Kenneth Sloan the training officer of the Greater Manchester police. The pamphlet suggested that the far-left Socialist Worker Party be banned under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Anderton's own record of combatting RIGHT WING 'subversion' is not impressive.

In 1975 when he was still assistant chief constable it was his decision not to prosecute nazis who violently broke up a meeting at UMIST in Manchester , causing serious injuries and thousands of pounds worth of damage. One of those responsible was later jailed for six months following PRIVATE prosecutions.
In Oct. 1977 Anderton spent some £14,000 in order to allow the National Front to march through Manchester - after a secret deal with NF party bosses. Manchester Council, on whose land the Front held their rally were not told of the plans and Anderton later admitted to giving misleading statements to the press. Police used helicopters and TV cameras to watch the crowds.

Surveillance of totally uninvolved citizens has not only been suggested by Anderton but will soon be out into practice in Manchester.

In Oct. 1978 it was revealed that 20 closed circuit TV cameras were to be operational in Manchester streets by 1980. Although nominally for traffic purposes and monitored during office hours from County Hall, the computer controlled cameras will be switched through to the police at night.
Earlier that year Anderton had suggested that the time might come when the whole nation would have to be fingerprinted - and national identity cards re-introduced.

Subversive's in general are not the only targets in Anderton's sight.
Harrassment of homosexuals has increased in Manchester. Last year, New Manchester Review reported that a special grill had been installed in the wall of a Collyhurst lavatory so that pairs of policemen could watch, unobserved, for acts of gross indecency between men.

...the time might come when the whole nation would have to be fingerprinted and identity cards re-introduced...

In March Bob Crossman of Manchester Gay Centre told a New Society reporter that arrested people who contact the centre nearly always complain that they have been refused their right to make a 'phone call. Many claim to have been fingerprinted and photographed as a matter of routine even when they are not charged. Many homosexuals now fear that the new Greater Manchester Bill giving the police more powers over club licensing will be used to close down those clubs which have a predominantly gay membership.

Pornography is another of Anderton's pet hates. Ever since he took charge he has waged war on newsagents who sell porn. But the magazines confiscated by the police have by no means all been hard core, many of the softer magazines which sell more copies than the average quality newspaper have been carted off to the police warehouses.

ELECTRONIC CARE

TAMESIDE'S OLD PEOPLE. WILL FEWER WARDENS MEAN BETTER CARE ?

At present, Tameside Housing are experimenting with a new system of helping the elderly, currently in use in Stockport. Old people, wherever they are living, can keep in touch with a central HQ using all the latest electronics.

theory

The theory goes that more old people can be looked after, and better use of warden's time can be made if they are mobile in cars installed with radio connecting them with the HQ. There is a trial period of six months but already it looks certain to be introduced permanently.
Recently, some wardens were shocked when they received a casual phone call from the Dept. asking them if they could drive. As one warden put it: 'They must think we're thick not seeing through that one.' NUPE, the warden's union, responded quickly and are making sure that until an agreement is reached over the new system wardens are taken on, irrespective of whether they are drivers.

cuts

But, if the council is trying to save money, how can this system be introduced, without cutting out some jobs? Extra vehicles and equipment will have to be bought for the mobile wardens: the only way to do that would be to cut the total number of wardens employed. After all, vacant warden's flats could be housing an elderly person instead.
Some wardens are wondering whether the extra coverage will mean poorer quality care If the warden is having to be moving from one place to another, will she or he have the time for that half-hour chat, to open this, to make a warm meal?
There is growing concern too at what seems to be the combined effect of pending cuts and people living longer. In Ashton House (Newton) for example, the average age of residents is now 80 (the number of people in Britain of pensionable age topped the 8 million mark, thats over 14% of the population).
There is some conflict between social workers and wardens over whether many of these old people should be in hospital or a home, not sheltered accomodation. The former say there is no room.

contracts

Increasingly wardens are in effect having to be nurses as well, though this is definitely not in their contract or part of their training.
In view of the expanding cuts it seems likely the situation is going to get worse, no matter how many bright new schemes are introduced.

ANDERTON cont.

To further his campaign against what he considers to be the decline in our moral standards Anderton has even set up a special porn squad. The effect of all this has been to turn Manchester into what the New Manchester Review has called 'Europe's most censored city'.
On the whole, Anderton's activities have not received much opposition. Last year Tameside's Trades Council launched a 'sack Anderton' campaign which quickly fizzled. A few Manchester Councillors on the police committee have complained about his lack of accountability to the representatives of the people.

Alternative papers like EYE have monitored his activities closely, but the establishment press has nearly always given him an easy ride, even when it became known that he and several of his senior colleagues had accepted gifts of whiskey from the Iranian Embassy last year. Anderton later claimed to have sent the gifts to his favourite charity.

The lack of criticism is not surprising. The tide of political opinions has been turning towards the kind of ideas and the kind of law and order which Anderton advocates. The election to power of the most conservative Tory government of recent years last May suggests as much. But, that government is about to face major economi and social crises and political confrontations that will require strong policemen to combat, and Anderton is such a policeman.

He was described in a recent New Society article as 'a man of the nineteenth century using the weapons of the twenty first century to fight the battles of the twentieth century.'
Some of those twentieth century battles look like occuring in the next few years. And there seems to be little doubt who Anderton will be using his twenty first century weapons to fight.

THIS ARTICLE WAS COMPILED WITH THE HELP OF MATERIAL FROM CITY ENQUIRER, NEW MANCHESTER REVIEW AND NEW SOCIETY.

Greater Manchester Campaign Against Social Security cuts.
One day conference to organise against the proposed attacks by the Govt. on Social Security and Social Services provisions.
Sat 24th Nov. 10.30am - 4.30pm.
Old Library Cheetham Hill Rd. Manchester 8.
Speakers from CPSA and CPAG. Write now for more details.

Destiny in Hyde

AN IRATE PHONE CALL ABOUT ALLEGED ERRORS IN LAST ISSUES SNIPPET ON THE GREENFIELD ST. MOSQUE AFFAIR LED ONE OF OUR REPORTERS TO VISIT THE HOUSE OF ANTI-MOSQUE CAMPAIGNER MRS. LOUIE WOMACK AND HER HUSBAND WHERE HE SPENT AN INTERESTING HOUR OR TWO.

Inaccurate

The reporter was convinced after talking to Mrs. Womack that our report had in fact contained a number of glaring factual errors. For example, Mrs. Womack has never been a member of the National Front and did not appear on an NF political broadcast last May as we claimed. In addition, we also confused the residents spokesperson Mrs. Dwyer with a quite different person, Mary Dyer who has also been involved in the campaign.
We would now like to take this opportunity of apologising to Mrs. Womack and Mrs Dwyer for any upset those errors may have caused.
But the meeting wasn't all apologies and humble pie.
As soon as he arrived our reporter was introduced to Mary Dyer. The lady we had confused Mrs. Dwyer with in the last issue.

Conspiracy

Mary Dyer is a striking middle aged woman with a forceful manner and an evangelical eye. She is also, as regular EYE readers will recall, a former member of the National Front and an active campaigner in racist and far-right politics.
During the course of the conversation Mary gave our open-mouthed reporter a history lesson. The world, he learnt was in the grips of a conspiracy of faceless men. Moscow and Washington are in cahoots and their tentacles reach right down into Tameside where, nods Mary knowingly, certain Labour councillors live in houses that are far too big for the money they

Evil Network

Edward Heath is part of this evil network too. And Mrs. Dyer is in the process of having him arrested for high treason because he once said that the nation state is no longer sacrosanct thus breaking his Parliamentary oath.
Our reporter couldn't help feeling he'd heard all this kind of thing (Edward Heath excepted) somewhere before. Images began to float before his glazed eye - Mussolini, Hitler, Franco, Tyndale, Webster. It was all classic fascist ideology Though when charged with this Mrs. Dyer claimed to have started a race riot in London two weeks previously.
Mrs. Womack sat more or less silently through all this but was obviously impressed, as was her husband.

Anti Mosque

When she did speak it was to argue that the anti-mosque campaign is not racist but about noise and inconvenience and, latterly, about the shabby treatment the campaigners feel they have received from councillors and bureacrats. With the racial element removed our reporter felt he could have been listening to any grassroots community activist talking. But, the racialism is there as well and Mrs. Womack did not deny this. Neither did she deny putting her name alongside that of Mary Dyer and Elsie Membriar (an ex N.F. er from Bury) at the bottom of a leaflet that was handed out outside the Manchester Commission for Racial Equality last May. The leaflet challenged the CRE to invoke the '76 Race Act against them. In fact, Mrs. Womack actually expressed annoyance that EYE had not given this action more positive coverage.
Eventually our reporter left with mixed feelings. He could not dismiss Louie Womack as an evil racist, that she

Campaign

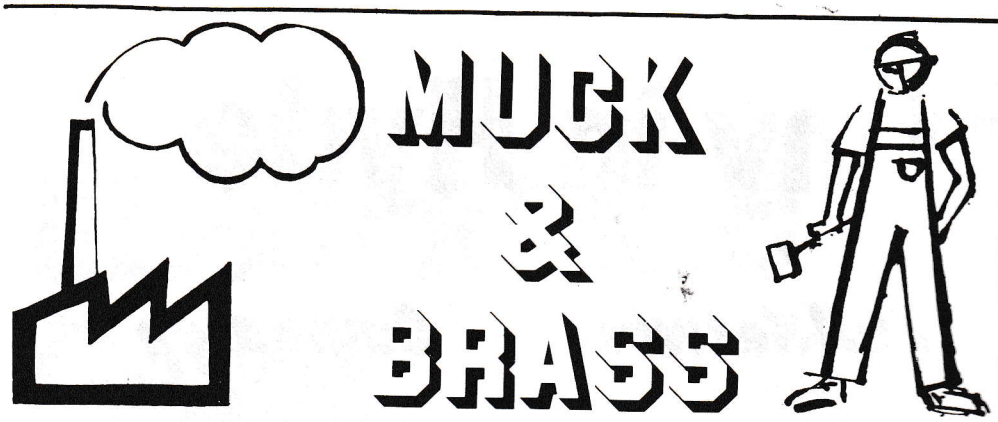
her to be a very likeable and sincere woman.
Neither could he dismiss the opposition to the Greenfield St.Mosque as entirely racist either. Though common sense, if nothing else, told him that racial feeling is clearly a very strong element in the campaign.

He recalled the distasteful incident when a pigs head was nailed to the door of the Mosque.

On the other hand, he could not dismiss the messianic presence of Mary Dyer who, at several points during the meeting had picked up her bag to leave and then replaced it prepatory to delivering yet another tirade. Mrs. Dyer has been an active member of the mosque campaign and is clearly an influence over Mrs. Womack who still is an active campaigner. But, how many of her ideas have got through to the good residents of Greenfield St. can only be a matter for disturbing speculation.

GRASS ROOTS BOOKS

Grass roots bookshop started up 8 years ago, providing the widest range of books and pamphlets available in the area. They are registered as a workers co-operative and for the past two years have had two shops in Manchester. They have now decided to close their Oxford Rd. shop and concentrate efforts at their large premises in Newton St. (just off Piccadilly).
To make a real success of this move they are asking for people to buy/order all their books and pamphlets from them (Tel. 236 3112). They can also provide you with a bookstall for Trade Union meetings Conferences, Meetings etc.
If you are involved in ordering for a library, they can assist there too.
For the whole of Nov. there's an exhibition of old photo-



MUCK & BRASS

RTZ - THE SAME THE WORLD OVER

The people who have fought a two year battle to prevent Sterling Mouldings Ltd. from constructing a potentially dangerous extension close to their homes at Queen Mill in Dukinfield are not alone.

The owners of Sterling, Rio Tinto Zinc Ltd., are a multi-national mining corporation with a record of over-riding the wishes of local people all over the world.

In Labrador, Canada, the RTZ subsidiary BRINCO has announced the opening of a Uranium mine in spite of a demand for a 10 year moratorium from the Eskimos living in the area.
RTZ mining plans in Queensland Australia have aroused opposition from local Aboriginés and were roundly criticised in a recent 'World in Action' T.V. report.
Meanwhile, RTZ has announced plans to prospect in the jungles of Brazil, where industrial development has decimated the Indian population over the last 30 years.
Back in Britain the giant RTZ owned ISC chemical works at Avonmouth near Bristol has been leaking chemicals on a scale that makes the notorious history of leaks at Sterling look like a mild case of baby burps.
In 1972 the Bristol plant had to close after workers were found with dangerously high lead levels in their blood. The Union claims that there have been 21 acid gas emissions since 1976 and that five of them were so concentrated that they scarred the bodywork of cars parked outside.
ISC claim, like Sterlingin Tameside, that the dangers of the leaks from their factories has been exaggerated.

But, they have begun to spend a lot of money on new safety precautions.
RTZ are good at cementing political relations.
In Tameside the Queen Mill extension issue was put under a party whip by the Tories last May, as a result the vote went in the favour of RTZ.
RTZ Chairman Sir Val Duncan was given thetask of reporting on British Overseas Embassies by the last Labour Govt. Not surprisingly he recommended closer contact between Diplomats and businessmen. This recommendation appears to have been adopted at the highest level with the appointment of Lord Carrington as British Foreign Secretary. Lord Carrington is a former member of the RTZ board of directors.

PaRTiZans (People against Rio Tinto Zinc) is a national organisation which keeps an eye on the world-wide activities of RTZ. Their address is available from P.N.S. Oxford House, Derbyshire St., London E.2.

Y fronts

I wear Y fronts
sea fronts
comfortably blunt
in a halo of colours
or confectionary brow
I even wear Y fronts
outa town
sad and down
I won't drown
when my pants
transform into a
collapsable mansize
raft
complete with flare
anywhere
I go
so
now ya know
who wears the pants
round here.
St. Michael.

toi let

pull the lavatory chain
of muttered neurotic
experiences in my life
and I'll flush down on
all sides
chained to a cistern
I can't beat
can't defeat
blushin flushin
graffitti gushin
basin washin
drunks coughin
some dossin
graspin at loo rolls
sink bowls
nude scrolls
and paper folds
rip up and vandalised
the floggenslog bog
deteriorated
into a smelly smashed
up heap

alex warne

ARREARS BONFIRE

You may have heard about Tameside's Denton Housing office having a fire a few Sunday's ago. In the press reports which followed a rather cautious line was taken, blaming the fire on young vandals.
Perhaps one of the reasons for Housing being so low key is that they don't want people to know what actually went up in flames? Eye's fly on the wall at Denton understands there's the small matter of many rent arrears records being destroyed by the fire. Tameside Housing records are not computerised like Manchesters, so this fire could turn out to be very embarrassing indeed.

The Labour group of Councillors have decided that all council staff vacancies should be filled immediately. But how are they going to pay the staff and for everything else they want to do?
At the Oct. Policy and Resources meeting, Councillors were given a report which pointed out that of all the Greater Manchester Boroughs Tameside was the most reliant on Central Government funds (72% of the council budget).
Militant-sounding talk still goes on amongst Labour Councillors - talk of raising extra rates this year (never mind next!), talk of another Clay Cross.□

Is there any truth in the rumour of bad blood between Councillor Hatton, the Chairman of the Wreckreation Committee and his Chief officer Ted Neighbour?
Watch this space for the gripping facts! □

Hello Readers!

On the train into town the other day I found a Daily Mirror in the lavatory. The last time I read the rag was Coronation Day, so I had a flick through. In one of their book reviews I found Lord Plurendens name in lights: known as Rudi to his friends, he and I have spent many a pleasant hour planning the strategic chemical pollution of Tameside (tomorrow the world). But to my horror! I discovered allegations that Lord P. not only could 'open doors in Eastern Europe' but was also a Russian spy. Could he be the 'Mole' of Sterling Moledings? (Rudi Sternberg, Dec eased owner of Sterling Mouldings became a Lord in one of Harold Wilsons infamous honours lists).

I was terribly shocked recently to discover from a librarian friend of mine that that evil-minded scandal sheet Tameside Eye hasn't in fact been banned from the magazine racks of Ashton Central Library as I reported earlier this year. In fact it seems that this obnoxious publication can still be read at rate payers expense if you ask for it from behind the counter. It seems that the only reason our librarians don't put it on open display is that whenever they do somebody nicks it! Which doesn't surprise me one bit. Anyone prepared to stoop low enough to read such unadulterated muck raking filth is capable of stooping to any crime, in my opinion!

When I explain how much Councillors claim on their expenses, my friends are shocked (and secretly wonder if they shouldn't take up representing the people themselves!) Well, readers, I can now reassure you this money is not all frittered away by Councillors sleeping through boring Council meetings. No, I am realiably informed by Ashton Town Hall pigeons that at least one member spends his slice of the rates well: cleaning up after the vandals. Alan D'Arcy Fearn was spotted recently scratching the town hall walls with his bare hands. Swooping nearer, my pigeon caught D'Arcy furiously tearing off one of those fly-posters which was sullying his town hall. Was he claiming expenses at the time ? Or does he now work for Environmental Health ? And the offensive item ? - one of those ads for a pinko play 'Waiting for Leftie' being put on by the Opposition at Denton Labour Club.

With the possible exception of certain unspeakable sexual practises, rumours are, in my opinion, the very lowest form of human intercourse. I abhor and detest them. And I never pass them on. Take for example the latest vile rumour about my good friend Councillor John Bell of Hyde. As if he would stoop to wearing a wig! What evidence is there for this? Next to nothing! Just because John fainted at a recent council meeting and Tory leader Alan Fearn, in rushing to help had to re-adjust John's fine head of natural hair which somehow had got itself in a vaguely back-to-front position - just because of that you get this unspeakable rumour! Disgusting! The instigator ought to be shot along with all those who pass such calumnies on.

Things are very quiet at Flowery Fields School these days. In fact, since Lenny Leach, that marvelously disciplinarian Head left at the end of summer term, life has not been the same. The kids are contented; the teachers are contented; the school is happy. In fact, some maladjusted individuals are getting so BORED they were thinking of begging him to return. There's a rumour going round that Lenny is now running a guest house in Wales, for the enlightenment of some of my more well-to-do friends children.

Wretch

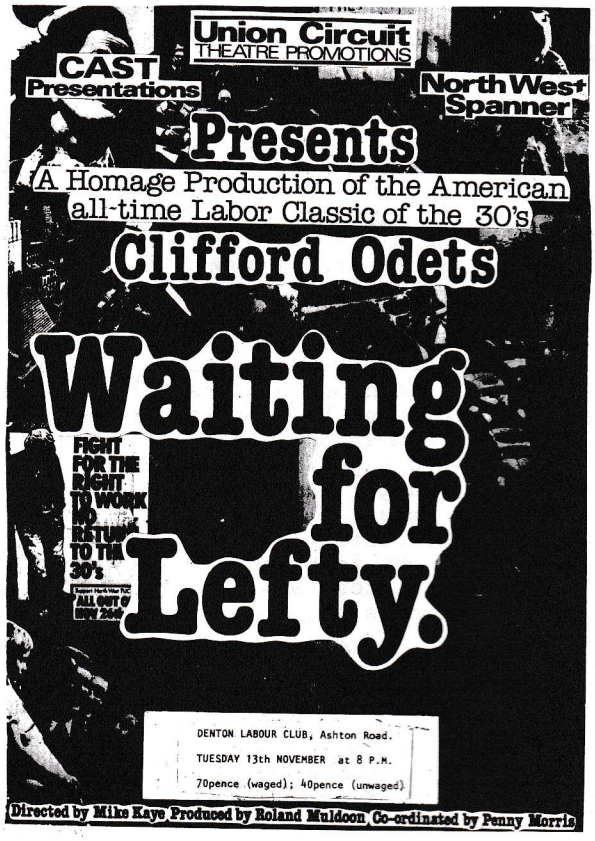
Councillor JohnBell of Hyde threw up at a recent Social Services meeting, poor man, It seems the councillor was watching a film on kids being battered when this unfortunate ejaculation occured. Uncharitable labour councillors wonder why, if he finds such things so shocking, he keeps demanding cuts in social services. But perhaps ding dong was just a bit peaky that day. The crunch is getting close for our would be socialist labour council. On Nov.12 the rate support grant from their Tory paymaster in London will be announced. And then Maggie will have our noble Tameside rebels by the short and pecunious curlies, with her chopper raised. Meanwhile, Tameside Chief Officers are muttering about the need for what they call 'manpower cuts' In plain language that means local government redundancies. The Labour councillors will not be at all keen on that. But what, we wonder, will be the alternative? Perhaps the Mayor limousine will have to be sold and Charlie Meredith trundled around in a wheelbarrow from now on. Or maybe the next council shindig will take place at the wimpey stand at Ashton bus station. Heaven forbid! □

SCANDAL

Last issue we carried a two page ad. for 'Stand and Deliver' which is held on alternate Fridays at the Dog and Partridge in Ashton. At the bottom of the ad, the illustrious name of Tameside Libraries and Arts was to be found side-by-side with ours 'Tameside Eye'. Apparently, at least one (Labour) councillor has been demanding to know what Libraries and Arts are doing supporting such a scurrilous magazine ?

ARRESTING

And who exactly was the council officer who recently did a wrongful citizens arrest on a perfectly innocent Hyde taxi driver? Yet another horrendous scandal we shall be exposing soon.


Union Circuit
THEATRE PROMOTIONS
CAST
Presentations
North West
Spanner
Presents
A Homage Production of the American
all-time Labor Classic of the 30's
Clifford Odets
Waiting for Lefty.
FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK
NO RETURN TO THE 30's
ALL OUT 6th DEC 2000
DENTON LABOUR CLUB, Ashton Road.
TUESDAY 13th NOVEMBER at 8 P.M.
70pence (waged); 40pence (unwaged)
Directed by Mike Kaye Produced by Roland Muldoon Co-ordinated by Penny Morris

£$£$£$

THE END OF DONKEY-STONE SCOURING?

Donkey-stone scouring, a working class tradition which has flourished in Yorkshire and Lancashire for the best part of a century is on the way out. Houseproud women on both sides of the Pennines are being forced to abandon the habit of a lifetime because supplies of the old-fashioned donkey stones are drying up.

Production ended at the world's last surviving manufacturers of the stones last summer. Now, donkey stones are very hard to come by as retailers' stocks run out and no more are available.

dismantled

Antiquated machinery used to make the stones at the firm of Eli Whalley and Co. of Ashton Under Lyne, is waiting to be dismantled before eventually becoming part of the proposed Tameside Museum.

Ironically, demand for the stones is still high. Mr. Harry Garside, a director of Whalleys said. 'We stopped this side of our business about 18 months ago. But a wholesaler came along and asked if we would allow him to carry on manufacturing the stones from their works if he could find people to make them for him.'

souvenir

The wholesaler, Mr.Colin Booth, who operates from the neighbouring town of Dukinfield, soon found three young men who were keen to learn the ancient craft under the expert guidance of Harry Garside.

'Unfortunately, the arrangement didn't last very long' explained Mr. Garside. 'After a few months Mr. Booth decided to pack up, although sales of the donkey stones were going well.' 'Even now, nearly a year after the last stone was made we still get people asking for them. Only the other week a wholesaler from North Wales said he would take as many as we could let him have, and there are

Mr. Harry Garside of Eli Whalley and Co. Ashton operating the mortar mixer.

a lot of people wanting them as souvenir pieces!

The long-standing tradition of scouring stone doorsteps and window ledges with donkey stones is one that is apparently dying hard with many Pennine housewives.

chore

One life-long step scourer Mrs. May Sykes of Linthwaite, Huddersfield, said. 'My mother always rubbed down her steps with donkey stone and I have carried on the tradition. When I was a young girl my sister and I used to have a regular weekly chore of doing the donkey stoning at home. We can still get stones from one or two shops in the area, but I'm sad to learn that they won't be available much longer. Things won't be quite the same without them.'

But a new and growing outlet emerged during the final months of donkey stone manufacturing in Ashton. Said Mr. Garside, 'Apparently a lot of people use them for stone cleaning such things as these big open fireplaces in converted cottages. One chap bought quite a number because he was using them to clean a monument.'

The few donkey stones that are still around cost only a few pence and last for several months with average use. When production stopped at Whalley's they were turning out about 500 a week - a sharp contrast to the terrific output in the 1930's when in a single year Whalleys produced 2½ million stones. Placed end to end they would have reached from Ashton to Blackpool and back.

doorsteps

The tradition of using donkey stone for cleaning and scouring dates from the days of flagged inside floors. A weekly chore was to scrub the flags and scour the whole floor with them. When floor coverings took over, the ritual became restricted to doorsteps window ledges and outside lavatories. The donkey stone was also widely used in public houses, shops and mills.

mixture

The stones were made from powdered stone quarried in Northampton and Wigan. Water, cement and a bleaching agent were added and the mixture was ground into a fine, wet paste in a grinding machine. The paste was pressed into an oblong mould and cut, stamped and air dried to form donkey stones.

brand marks

Donkey stones got their name because of the donkey brand mark used by one of the biggest manufacturers in their heyday. Other manufacturers put different marks on their stones - Whalleys was a lion and another firm's was a pony.

MIKE SHAW
PENNINE MAGAZINE NOV. 1979.

Hello boys and girls
Having a lovely time spending my tax rebate in the Bahamas.
See you next issue.

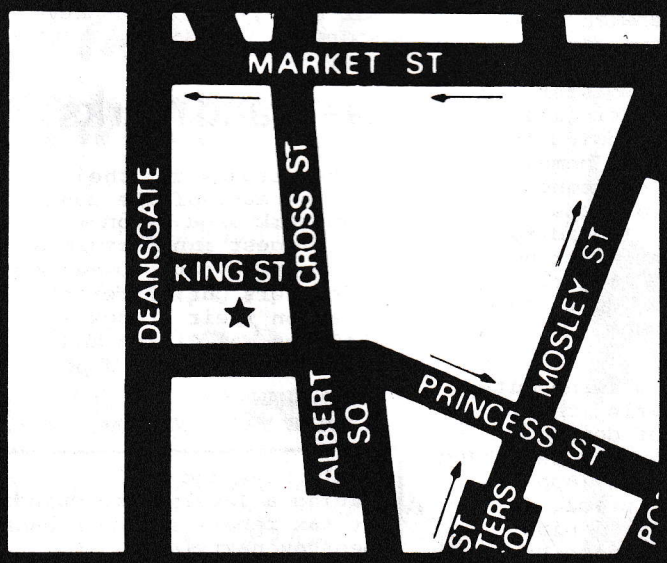
Uncle Ben

WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO GO?

North West Arts is the regional arts association serving Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, and the High Peak of Derbyshire. Our Centre at 52 King St., Manchester, is open Mon–Sat, 10am–5pm.

Feel free to call in and browse around our craftshop, have a coffee or a meal in our restaurant, find out what's on from our information desk, or book a ticket for a concert, a play or anything else that is happening at a choice of over fifty venues ... from Manchester to Macclesfield, Lymm to Liverpool and London.

North West Arts exists to promote an understanding and appreciation of the arts, to develop the arts generally, and to increase the accessibility of the arts.



North West Arts gives financial assistance and advice to artists, promoters, and organisations working within the arts. The specialist officers are available for consultation.

GO TO NORTH WEST ARTS FIRST!

52 King Street, Manchester
M2 4LY. 061-833 9471